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The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

2018

IJCS News, Volume 6

The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

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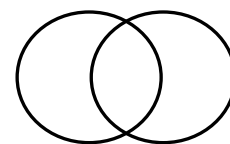
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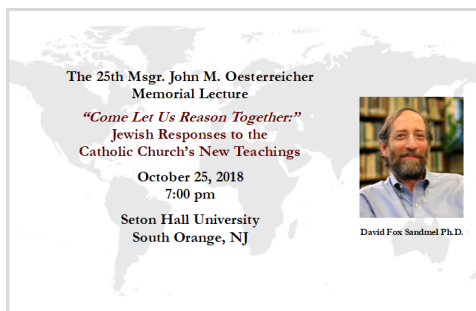
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IJCS NEWS



The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies Annual Newsletter

Volume 6 | 2018



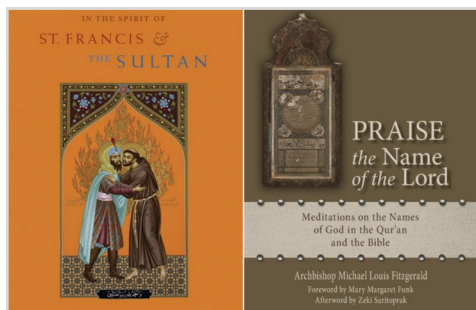
Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Ph.D. was the keynote speaker at the 25th Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture.

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A significant collection, primarily assembled by Holocaust survivor Michel Jeifa, has been added to Seton Hall University Archives.

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Father Lawrence E. Frizzell reports on a study day that featured experts on Catholic-Muslim dialogue.

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Highlights of Msgr. Oesterreicher's tireless efforts, including his work with pioneers at Vatican II (bottom right) and Rabbi Asher Finkel and Fr. Lawrence Frizzell (bottom left).

65th Anniversary of the IJCS

Promoting Jewish-Christian Relations since 1953

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.

As 2018 has become history, we recall the beginning of Father John M. Oesterreicher's response in Vienna to the beginning of the Nazi period in neighboring Germany 85 years ago. After the annexation of Austria to the German Reich in 1938 he fled for his life; he continued to resist the Nazi ideology by publications and radio broadcasts from Paris until June 1940.

After an adventurous escape from Vichy France Father Oesterreicher arrived in New York City in November 1940. Thirteen years later, through the generosity of Madame H. Suzanne Jobert and the welcome of former university President Monsignor John L. McNulty, he founded the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies (IJCS) at Seton Hall University on March 25, 1953. Here Father Oesterreicher matured with the Church in his understanding of the Christian relationship with the Jewish people and their faith rooted in the call of Abram and the mission of Moses.

Every Fall semester at Seton Hall University, the Institute has held a lecture in

- continued on next page

Faculty Seminar

Resources for Scholars, Educators and Students
by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.

For many years the [Center for Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University](#) has sponsored a Faculty Seminar immediately after the academic year ends. From May 22-24, 2018, I offered a reflection on the Second Vatican Council's "Declaration on the Church's Relationship with Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra aetate*)," promulgated on October 28, 1965. This text is studied in the first course in the University Core Curriculum, "Journey of Transformation," at Seton Hall so several University Core professors took part in the Seminar.

The first two days of the seminar were focused on the section concerning "The Church's bond with the Jewish people" (Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher's phrase) and the introductory sections (added for a revision of the draft in 1964) were reviewed on the last day, with attention to the Golden Rule in the religions of the world (See Scarboro Mission's [Golden Rule Across the World's Religions](#)). Participants were alerted to the four publications of the Commission of the Holy See for Religious Relations with the Jews, which you can access on the Vatican's website [here](#).

Ten of the seminar's participants wrote an essay relating the Seminar topic to their own discipline. These essays have been collected and edited by Ms. Danute Nourse of the Center for Catholic Studies and published on the Center's e-repository at <https://scholarship.shu.edu/catholic-studies/25/>. In this collection Msgr. John Radano, who worked for 24 years in the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity that houses the Commission of the Holy See for Religious Relations with the Jews, drew attention to the contribution of Seton Hall's Msgr. Oesterreicher to the drafts of *Nostra aetate* (see pages 22-30).



Accepting Applications for Fall 2019

The [M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies](#) graduate program at Seton Hall University is accepting applications for the 2019 Fall Semester. Call (973) 761-9142 to learn how to apply.

Since 1975 this program has taught students the history, theology, ethics and scriptures of the Jewish and Christian faiths. Students develop a critical awareness of the relationship between Jews and Christians and learn to address complex religious, ethical and social issues to promote justice and peace. Graduates are prepared for doctoral biblical and religious studies, or for any facet of interreligious and multicultural relations, dialogue and diplomatic encounters — from teaching to ecumenical administration to seminary.

Pioneers -continued-

memory of our founding director, Father Oesterreicher, since his death in 1993. Many comprise a series of presentations on the European pioneers in Christian-Jewish relations; this series has offered a commemoration of the heroes and heroines of resistance against the anti-Jewish bigotry of the period. Under the rather ambiguous term "antisemitism," this antipathy and hatred of Jews reached a lethal extreme that cost millions of lives. We wish to remember the courage and perseverance of those who combated the form that antisemitism took in the 1930s and during the Second World War. I am in the process of preparing the text of these lectures and a translation of related essays so that these contemporaries of John Oesterreicher will serve to inspire people too young to recall this dismal period of European history. Along with a modest publication of the Institute the text will be published online and made available for all to access.

“Come Let Us Reason Together”

Jewish Responses to the Catholic Church’s New Teachings on Judaism



Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Ph.D.

Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Ph.D. was the keynote speaker for the 25th Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture on October 25, 2018 at Seton Hall University. This special event commemorated the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies (IJCS), which hosted and sponsored the lecture in partnership with the [New Jersey Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education](#).

A scholar of Jewish-Christian relations and interfaith activist, Rabbi Sandmel is the Director of Interreligious Engagement at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Before joining the ADL in 2014, he held the Crown-Ryan Chair in Jewish Studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and was the Judaic Scholar at the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies in Baltimore, where he managed the project that produced “Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity.” He is also an editor of [Christianity in Jewish Terms](#) and [Irreconcilable Differences? A Learning Resource for Jews and Christians](#), and his commentary on First Thessalonians appears in [The Jewish Annotated New Testament](#).

In 1965 the Second Vatican Council issued “The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra aetate*)” which was followed by a series of texts, all of which are intended to guide Catholics in their relations with those of other religions. As Rabbi Sandmel noted in his lecture, various Jewish individuals and groups have in turn publicly responded to these texts with statements, documents and proposals of their own.

According to Rabbi Sandmel’s research, “the first Jewish effort to respond in kind to *Nostra aetate* and the Christian world more broadly” was written by his father and noted Tanach and New Testament scholar, Samuel Sandmel, Ph.D., who was also a pioneer in post-Holocaust Jewish-Christian relations. Dr. Samuel Sandmel’s response appeared in the final chapter, “A Proposed Declaration: The Synagogue and the Christian People,” of his book [We Jews and You Christians: An Inquiry into Attitudes](#), which was published in 1967. After summarizing key points in his father’s declaration, Rabbi Sandmel offered chronological, in-depth analyses of the following four Jewish statements:

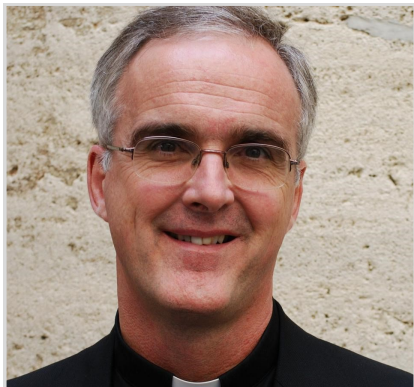
- “Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity” (2000)
- “Declaration for the Upcoming Jubilee of Brotherhood: A New Jewish View of Jewish-Christian Relations” (2015)
- “To Do the Will of our Father in Heaven” (2015)
- “Between Jerusalem and Rome” (2017)

Rabbi Sandmel reviewed the different groups that produced the four statements and outlined the distinctiveness and similarities of each document. He also presented criticisms and summarized the historical significance of each statement. Ultimately Dr. Sandmel concluded, that taken as a whole, the statements represent a positive direction in the development of Jewish-Christian relations:

In the final analysis, these statements demonstrate that a wide spectrum of Jewish community leaders and scholars has paid very close attention, not only to *Nostra aetate* and to similar Christian efforts, but more broadly to other documents that have come out of the Vatican...These [Jewish] leaders, even if not all Jews everywhere, are confident that those changes are both real and permanent and that Jews can now approach those Christians who speak in this manner as partners rather than as adversaries. The issue of trust I would say, broadly, has been addressed. *Nostra aetate* has been described as a “sea-change” in Christian relations to Jews and Judaism; I would say that these Jewish statements taken as a whole represent a “sea-change” among Jews as well.

To delve more deeply into Rabbi Sandmel’s discussion and learn more about the development of Jewish-Christian relations on national and international levels, watch his lecture online for free on the IJCS YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

Non-Violent Peace Making

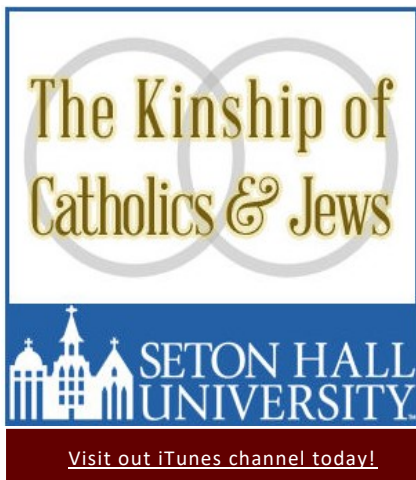


Rev. Gerard Whelan, S.J., Ph.D.

The Institute will co-sponsor the lecture, "Non-Violent Peace Making: The Contribution of Bernard Lonergan and Robert Doran," on February 25th at 4:00 p.m. at Seton Hall. Save the date and join us!

The speaker, Rev. Gerard Whelan, Ph.D., is a Professor at the Gregorian University in Rome. He is author of *Redeeming History: Social Concern in Bernard Lonergan and Robert Doran* (2013), and *A Discerning Church: Pope Francis, Bernard Lonergan, and a Theological Method for the Future* (to be published in May 2019).

Radio Program



Don't forget to tune into our radio program, *The Kinship of Catholics and Jews*, every Sunday from 11:00 am - 11:30 pm on WSOU 89.5 FM.

You can also listen to past shows any time on *The Kinship's* iTunes channel. Click [here](#) to start listening now!



Star of David stitched in to Michel Jeifa's childhood clothing (c. 1940) in the Jeifa Family Collection, which is housed in Seton Hall's Monsignor Noe Field Archives & Special Collections Center.

Jeifa Family Collection

New Addition to Archives and Special Collections

When the Institute's founder, Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, died in 1993, he willed his personal library in several languages and the archives of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies (IJCS) to the Walsh Library at Seton Hall University, which is now housed in the Monsignor William Noé Field Archives and Special Collections Center.

Throughout the years the Institute added three additional important collections of papers and publications to the Archives and Special Collections: the [Michael Wyschogrod papers](#), an extensive collection of papers and books emphasize Jewish involvement in dialogue with both Catholics and Protestants; the Reverend [Edward H. Flannery papers](#), which constitute an important resource for the Catholic contribution to Jewish-Christian relations; and the Reverend [Nancy Forsberg papers](#), which give special insight into Protestant-Jewish relations from the 1960s -1980s.

In 2018 a fourth collection from the Jeifa family was added. The [Jeifa Family Collection](#) consists of articles, ephemera, photographs and personal documents relating to the Jeifa family's life from 1907 to 1947. The collection was primarily assembled by Holocaust survivor Michel Jeifa and shows aspects of his family's life before the war as well as evidence of the persecution and tragedy they experienced during the war.

We are very grateful to Mr. Jeifa and his family for their generous donation to the Seton Hall University Archives! Their collection will help benefit future generations of educators and students and help ensure their family's tragic story is never forgotten.

In addition to visiting the archives, you can learn more about Mr. Jeifa and his family's story by visiting our YouTube channel and viewing [Documentary Q&A with Michel Jeifa](#) and [Continuing the Conversation with Michel Jeifa](#), both of which were recorded during the Teachers Study Day, "Jews and Resistance in France during World War II," on March 28, 2018 when Mr. Jeifa was 91 years old. To gain proper insight and background information, we recommend watching Mr. Michel Jeifa's interview by Esther Stone in 1997 at bit.ly/MichelJeifaInterview beforehand.

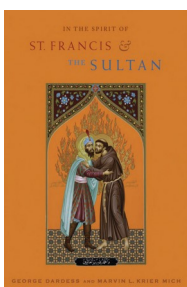
Interreligious Dialogue

Faith not Fear

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.

The Maryknoll Mission Institute sponsored a study day at the Sisters Motherhouse in Ossining, NY on September 22, 2018 with two invited speakers who are experts on Catholic-Muslim dialogue.

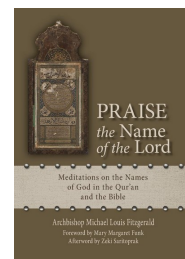
The first expert, Dr. John Borelli of Georgetown University, began his presentation with a review of the persecution of Christians in Algeria. According to Dr. Borelli, the best known of these martyrs are the seven Cistercian monks of Tibhirine in the Atlas Mountains. Their story is told powerfully in the film “Of Gods and Men,” which won the 2010 the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. The beatification of the 19 martyrs who were killed between 1993-1996 took place in Oran, Algeria on December 8, 2018. To learn more, read Cindy Wooden’s article, [“Algerian martyrs to be beatified in Algeria Dec. 8,”](#) in *Crux*.



Looking back to one of the bright moments in Catholic-Muslim relations, Dr. Borelli continued his presentation by referring to the visit in 1219 of St. Francis of Assisi to the Sultan in Egypt. This event is presented by George Dardess and Marvin Krier in the book [In the Spirit of St. Francis and the Sultan: Catholics and Muslims Working Together for the Common Good](#) (Orbis Books, 2011). Dr. Borelli recalled Pope Paul VI’s appreciation of the work of Louis Massignon (1883 – 1962), a French Catholic scholar of Islam. In 1964 Pope Paul introduced the theme of Catholic-Muslim relations into the Second Vatican Council’s draft of the document on “The Church’s Bond with the Jewish people” (Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher’s title for the early draft), promulgated as “The Church’s Relationship to Non-Christian Religions” ([Nostra aetate](#)). Dr. Borelli noted that missionaries were among the scholars who introduced the sections on world religions that were added

to the draft on the Jewish people. When Pope John XXIII opened the Council, he spoke about “the medicine of mercy.” These words have resonated with Pope Francis, who opened the Year of Mercy as the theme for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Council’s end.

The second expert, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, a member of the Society of the Missionaries of Africa, now in a very active retirement in Jerusalem, served in the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) from 1987 and in 2006 became the Apostolic Nuncio in Egypt. He grounded his presentation on the 1984 document of the PCID [“Dialogue and Mission,”](#) with its emphasis on the presence of a believing community in areas where Christians are few. Their faith is expressed in prayer and liturgical celebration, from which service to neighbors of other religions is expressed in joint projects. This underscores that Christians should discover and bring to light the riches God has bestowed on all parts of the world.



Archbishop Fitzgerald addressed the question of fear, as among the obstacles to interreligious cooperation. He discussed how the leaders in some countries are intolerant, and in some places, legislation is very discriminatory. In contrast the Archbishop also spoke about and gave examples of joint projects that are devoted to offering opportunities for sharing common concerns in European countries and other places with Muslim minorities.

After Dr Borelli’s and Archbishop Fitzgerald’s morning lectures, two members of the Maryknoll Sisters Congregation, Sr. Luise Ahrens and Sr. Rosemarie Milazzo, and a Maryknoll priest, Rev. Doug May, gave examples of encounters in Indonesia, Egypt and the Middle East in a “Panel of Experiences.” The Mission Institute also provided a realistic and encouraging experience for the participants, and their brochure for the symposium featured the poster [“The Golden Rule”](#) developed by the Scarborough Missions (Toronto).

In his lecture and in his concluding reflection to the event, Archbishop Fitzgerald pointed to the theme of divine mercy in the Bible and in the Qur’an. His book [Praise the Name of the Lord: Meditations on the Names of God in the Qur’an and the Bible](#) (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2017) is dedicated to those “who are endeavoring to increase mutual understanding and to strengthen the cooperation between Christians and Muslims.”



Rev. Billy Graham (1918-2018)

The Rev. Billy Graham, R.I.P.

A Recollection of the Preachers Conference in August 1971

by Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.

The passing on February 21, 2018 of the great evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham, into eternal rest received considerable attention in the secular and religious media this past year. See the report, "[Rev. Graham dies; world famous evangelist was admired by most Americans](#)," in *The Monitor*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton (February 21, 2018). For another Catholic perspective on his life, see the [essay](#) in *Our Sunday Visitor* (February 27, 2018) by Seton Hall University adjunct professor of systematic theology, Monsignor John A. Radano, who was a staff person in the Holy See's Council for Promoting Christian Unity from 1984 to 2008.

In the context of a positive statement Rabbi Gerald Zelizer, formerly of Congregation Neve Shalom in Metuchen, N.J., recalled Billy Graham's telephone conversation with President Nixon in 1972, in which he quoted the phrase "synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:9; 3:9) as

an indictment of the Jewish people of his own time, whereas the word "synagog-ē" in Greek should be translated "assembly," as in the New American Bible. Grave harm has come upon Jewish communities in many times and places over the centuries because of this unjust generalization from two communities in Asia Minor to the synagogues of all times. Rabbi Zelizer's essay, "[How Should Jews Remember Rev. Billy Graham?](#)" was published in *The Jewish Week* (March 2, 2018).

Rather than offer a general Catholic reflection, I wish to recall the Preachers Conference in August 1971 which took place in Amsterdam, Holland. The meeting was organized by the Billy Graham Association and brought 1,250 preachers from all parts of Europe to a week-long "retreat." I was one of the four Catholic priests invited as silent observers.

Dr. Billy Graham gave the opening address but the rest of the lectures were given by Europeans, including the Reverend John Stott from England. Collaboration with Catholics was not yet on the horizon, but it was reported that "the Vatican consulted us on the age when a young person could make a personal commitment to Christ." I recall Dr. Graham's statement that long ago he had resolved the debates and questions related to the Gospel message and from that time he presented it with full conviction. That act of faith is extremely important, but he might have made explicit the point that continuing personal study of the Sacred Scriptures should be a life-long pursuit for every Christian.

The following week I was a guest at the annual meeting of the prestigious Society for New Testament Studies in a town near Amsterdam. Professor I. Howard Marshall from the University of Aberdeen greeted me with the remark that we were the only people to attend both meetings!

Tensions were high at times between British and German scholars after certain presentations at this meeting. Dr. James H. Charlesworth, a young American scholar, tried to bring calm to the scene by referring to his positive experience at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem. Thankfully we have grown over the decades that have followed toward a more respectful sharing of faith-filled and academic insights!

Follow and Connect With Us





Your loving-kindness is better than life! (Psalm 63:3)

This year marks an important milestone as we celebrate our 65th anniversary of our founding at Seton Hall University in 1953 by Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher.

Your gift will help us continue to unite and empower scholars, educators and students who are dedicated to exploring and promoting their shared values, practices, traditions and peaceful pursuits.

All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to:

Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

Attention: Lawrence Frizzell

400 South Orange Avenue

South Orange, NJ 07079

For more information, please contact the Reverend Dr. Lawrence Frizzell directly via email at lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu or by phone at (973) 761-9751.

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